



AGENDA ITEM:

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:

26 July 2023

Report of: Head of Finance, Procurement and Commercial Services

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SUBJECT: Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 and 2022/23

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 and 2022/23

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22, set out in Appendix 1, be approved and commended to the Leader and Chief Operating Officer for signature.

2.2 That the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23, set out in Appendix 2, be approved and commended to the Leader and Chief Operating Officer for signature.

2.3 Any subsequent changes to the Annual Governance Statements, following receipt the final external audit reports, be undertaken by the Head of Finance, Procurement and Commercial Services (s151 officer) in consultation with the Chair of Audit and Governance Committee.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations require the Council to publish an Annual Governance Statement with its financial reports.

3.2 The terms of reference of this Committee include responsibility for approving the Annual Governance Statement and commending it for signature by the Leader and Chief Operating Officer.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The Annual Governance Statement provides a summary of the Council's internal control environment and a review of its effectiveness. The draft statements for 2021/22 and 2022/23 confirm that the framework was adequate and working effectively. However, it should be noted that the external audit of the Councils accounts has not concluded for 2020/21 or 2021/22 and therefore there may need to be revisions to the draft statements following the issue of the external auditors final audit reports.
- 4.2 Within the Annual Governance Statements, the council acknowledges its responsibility for ensuring that a sound system of governance is maintained and details the foundations of the governance framework and the key roles of those responsible for the development and maintenance of the governance environment.
- 4.3 The Annual Governance Statements also record the progress made to address any previous significant governance issues and reports any ongoing significant governance issues highlighted from the recent review and how they will be addressed by the Council.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no significant financial or resource implications arising from this report as Internal Audit activity is included in existing budget provisions.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 Failure to publish an Annual Governance Statement with the Statement of Accounts would breach one of the Council's statutory obligations.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D (5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Appendices

1. Annual Governance Statement 2021/22
2. Annual Governance Statement 2022/23